

These disagreements can often result in the patient receiving a different course of treatment than they might have preferred—an undesirable yet easily avoidable outcome. We need to empower patients to express their wishes, to exert their choice, and to clearly define their preferences and expectations, whatever they may be, to those who will be along their side at that difficult time.

People often think, “I’m too young to worry about that.” Or, “I have plenty of time to deal with that later.” But these conversations aren’t just important for people who have been diagnosed with terminal illness or individuals approaching old age. In fact, if you wait too long, you may not get the chance.

Most diseases don’t discriminate and accidents can happen to anyone. The time for us to think about what our wishes might be is before we are in a crisis—when we can think clearly about the consequences of the course we select, consult with our spiritual and moral leaders, and discuss these difficult issues with family and friends. There are many physical, emotional, and spiritual components to these issues, and it takes careful reflection to determine which are most important to you.

I am very proud to say that my State has been a leader on this issue. We have a great organization called Honoring Choices Minnesota that provides resources and tools to help people start these difficult conversations with their families.

There will be several events in my State today and all across the country highlighting the importance of not only making your preferences known, but ensuring that people who want to can document their wishes through an advanced care directive, physicians order for life sustaining treatment, or other legal mechanism.

I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to take time today to think about their families, their wishes, and to begin planning for the future.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL DELANEY

● Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate an excellent lawyer and a dedicated public servant—New Hampshire Attorney General Michael Delaney. As Mike completes more than 14 years of service to the people of New Hampshire I would like to acknowledge his significant record of accomplishments.

Long before Mike rose to the position of attorney general, he served as a prosecutor in the homicide unit. I was privileged to work with him on several murder trials, including the case involving two murdered Dartmouth professors. And I was proud to continue serving with him when I was the attorney general and he was the deputy at-

torney general, working together to provide leadership for the office.

Having had the privilege of working side by side with Mike, I can attest to his passion for seeking justice in all prosecutions, his outstanding advocacy on behalf of victims, and his commitment to providing the State with legal representation and counsel of the highest quality.

After serving as legal counsel to the governor, Mike was appointed to serve as New Hampshire’s attorney general in 2009. Throughout his service as attorney general, Mike served the people of New Hampshire with diligence, independence and integrity, leading by example as he and his staff performed the constitutional, statutory and common law duties of the attorney general as the State’s chief legal officer and chief law enforcement officer.

As Mike leaves public service to return to private practice, I commend him on a job well done. He has successfully carried forward the highest traditions of excellence and independence of the office of attorney general and leaves a legacy of improvements to all aspects of the work of the New Hampshire Department of Justice. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service and wishing him, his wife Caroline, and their children Will, Maggie and Katie, well in all their future endeavors.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:39 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 882. An act to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other Purposes.

H.R. 1162. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to make improvements in the Government Accountability Office.

H.R. 1246. An act to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to provide that the District of Columbia Treasurer or one of the Deputy Chief Financial Officers of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia may perform the functions and duties of the Office in an acting capacity if there is a vacancy in the Office.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 882. An act to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1162. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to make improvements in the

Government Accountability Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 729. A bill to protect law abiding citizens by preventing criminals from obtaining firearms.

S. 730. A bill to prevent criminals from obtaining firearms through straw purchasing and trafficking.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 743. A bill to restore States’ sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1131. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program” (RIN0560-A106) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1132. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Accounting and Reporting Requirements; Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Funding and Fiscal Affairs; GAAP References and Other Conforming Amendments” (RIN3052-AC75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1133. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a date for the completion of an annual report relative to recruitment incentives; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1134. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress on Corrosion Policy and Oversight Budget Materials for Fiscal Year 2014”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1135. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress On Repair of Naval Vessels in Foreign Shipyards”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1136. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the National Security Education Program for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1137. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order